



PARISH OF ST MARY, STAR OF THE SEA, GISBORNE

Catholic Diocese of Hamilton

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

15 MARCH 2026

It's **Laetare Sunday**—we rejoice that we are over half way through the rigours of Lent. This Sunday we have another long Gospel reading, the story of the man born blind. I share with you part of a reflection by Pope Francis on this Gospel: *The man born blind and healed represents us when we do not realise that Jesus is the light; he is “the Light of the World”, when we are looking elsewhere, when we prefer to entrust ourselves to little lights, when we are groping in the dark. The fact that the blind man has no name helps us to see our face reflected and our name in his story. We too have been “illuminated” by Christ in Baptism, and thus we are called to behave as children of the light.*

The **Scrutinies** continue this Sunday, with special prayers for those who will be received into our Church at the Easter Vigil. Please pray for them as they, too, come into the light.

I will say Mass at **Tokomaru Bay** this Sunday at 11.30am, and will give them your greetings.

Father Ritche and I are away for part of this week, gathering with the other priests of the Diocese. There will not be a Mass on Tuesday, but there will be a Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion on Wednesday and Thursday.

Stations of the Cross continue each Friday.

Lenten blessings on you all.

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MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

Derek Allan died a week ago and his Requiem Mass was celebrated on Friday. May his soul now rest in peace, after an illness bravely borne. Our sympathy to Moira-Jean and their family.

Roger Hurlstone also died during the past week and his funeral service was celebrated on Saturday 14 March. We extend our sympathy to Dianne and the family.

Don Cook died recently—though he wasn't a Catholic, he accompanied his wife Anne (deceased) to Mass for many years. Saints of God, come to their aid—hasten to meet them, angels of the Lord!

LITURGY SCHEDULE THIS WEEK

Tuesday: No Mass (or Holy Hour)

Wednesday, 9am: Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion (thanks Kathy and Jim)

Thursday, 9am—Feast of St Joseph: Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion (thanks Sister Meg—and a happy feast day to you!)

Friday, 12.10pm—Mass (with Holy Hour beforehand)

EASTER TRIDUUM

- Holy Thursday—Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7pm
- Good Friday—Stations of the Cross at 10am; Commemoration of the Lord's Passion at 3pm
- Holy Saturday—Easter Vigil will be at 7pm
- Easter Sunday—Mass at 9am (and also the end of Daylight Saving!)

There will also be Mass on Easter Sunday at Sacred Heart Church, Ūawa-Tolaga Bay, at 11am. (No Mass there the following Sunday, April 12.)

SENIOR RETREATS

Best wishes to the senior students at Campion College who have their retreats this week in the Parish Centre. May you be inspired!

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

This ancient devotion of our Church will be prayed **each Friday in Lent at 5.30pm**. All are welcome. "We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you."

MATAWAI

Mass at St Bede's Church, Matawai, next Sunday (22 March) at 11am. Members of the Catholic Women's League will also be in attendance.

FELLOWSHIP DAY FOR WOMEN

CWCI invites women of our parish to a day of Bible Teaching with Melbourne speaker Julie Potts: "WHAT IS GOOD? Micah 6:8" **Tuesday March 17, 2026** at the Mission Hall, 707 Gladstone Road, from 10am to 3pm. Refreshments and lunch provided. Info on the noticeboard in foyer.

REMINDER: COMMUNITY LAY MINISTERS OF COMMUNION

A meeting will be held this Tuesday at 2.30pm in the Parish Centre.

PILGRIMAGE OF MERCY WOMEN'S RETREAT

Registrations are open for the three-day Pilgrimage of Mercy being held at the St Francis Retreat Centre in Auckland from May 29 to 31. Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/4berb6aj>

FLOWERING OF THE CROSS

During the Mass on Easter Sunday our children will be invited to place flowers on The Cross. Please bring some flowers from your garden. There will be a basket in the foyer for the flowers.



EDUCATION

Stella Maris Early Childhood Centre	Bridget Armstrong (Centre Leader)	(06) 863 0428
St Mary's School	Helen McGuigan (Principal)	(06) 868 8332
Campion College	Karyn Sadler (Principal)	(06) 867 9309

This Sunday's Readings:

1 Samuel 16:1.6-7, 10-13
Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9:1-41

Next Sunday's Readings:

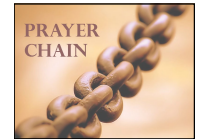
Ezekiel 37:12-14
Romans 8:8-11
John 11:1-45

MASS OFFERING

Mass can be offered for Holy Souls, Thanksgiving, Special Intentions, needs or difficulties. Contact Elaine in the Parish Office to arrange to have a Mass offered for your intentions.

PRAYER CHAIN

If you need prayer, or want to be a Prayer Chain member (committing to pray for others), contact **Sister Cynthia** (06 868 6378) or **Chris Crowe** (027 2838936). The purpose of a prayer chain is to support one another, lift up our needs and hopes to God, and gain God's assistance through prayer.



THE HOLY ROSARY

The Rosary is prayed in the side chapel before Mass.

Date	Mass Times	Intentions	Feast / Saint
Sunday March 15	6pm Vigil (Saturday) 9am	Vigil: Cyril Lundon (RIP) 9am: Bernard Jack Thompson (RIP)	FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT
Monday March 16	NO MASS		
Tuesday March 17	NO MASS		St Patrick's Day
Wednesday March 18	9am: Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion		St Cyril of Jerusalem
Thursday March 19	9am: Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion		St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Friday March 20	12.10	Ross & Shirley Gregory (10th wedding anniversary)	
Saturday March 21	9am		
Sunday March 22	6pm Vigil (Saturday) Sunday 9am	Vigil: Parishioners' Intentions 9am: Michael Joseph Liddell (RIP 1st anniversary)	FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

SUNDAY MASS AT OTHER CHURCHES —

Second Sunday: Sacred Heart, Tolaga Bay (11am)
Third Sunday: St James, Tokomaru Bay (11.30am)
Fourth Sunday: St Bede's, Matawai (11am)

CONFESSIONS —

Friday 11.25 — 11.45am
Saturday 9.30 — 10am
Or by appointment with one of the priests